

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ASMARA 00546 201121Z

11

ACTION XMB-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 OPIC-06 SP-02

CIEP-02 OMB-01 /057 W

----- 111475

P R 200810Z JUN 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3402

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

UNCLAS ASMARA 0546

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, ET

SUBJECT: FCIA/EXIMBANK NO. D-394

AIRCRAFT COMPANY OF ETHIOPIA, ASMARA

REF: A. STATE 138448 B. STATE 115232

1. UPON INQUIRY, MR. S. BOATTINI, FORMER MANAGER OF THE AIRCRAFT COMPANY OF ETHIOPIA, INFORMED THE CONSULATE GENERAL THAT HIS COMPANY WAS NATIONALIZED AS OF MAY 16, 1975. NOTING THAT HE HAS PURCHASED AIRCRAFT FROM BOTH PIPER AND ROCKWELL, HE HAS INDICATED THAT HE NOTIFIED BOTH COMPANIES DURING FEBRUARY 1975 OF THE EVENTS OCCURRING IN ERITREA, NAMELY THE OUTBREAK OF CIVIL WAR, THA FORCED HIS DEPARTURE AND, HE SAYS, ENDED HIS BUSINESS IN ERITREA. AS A CONSEQUENCE, HE WAS UNABLE TO PAY THE NOTES ON THE DUE DATE AND ASKED THE COMPANIES TO POSTPONE PAYMENT BY THREE TO FOUR MONTHS.

2. HE STATED THAT THE MELLON BANK OF NEW YORK, PURCHASER OF THE ROCKWELL NOTE REPLIED FAVORABLY AND EXTENDED IT TO MAY 20, 1975. HOWEVER NEITHER PIPER NOR ITS BANKER, MANUFACTURERS HANOVER TRUST CO. OF NEW YORK, REPLIED. THE PIPER REPRESENTATIVE IN GENEVA, WHO VISITED ADDIS IN MAY, TOLD MR. BOATTINI HE WOULD TAKE UP THE MATTER DURING A VISIT HE PLANNED IN JUNE TO THE PIPER HEAD OFFICE IN LOCK HAVEN. THE PROBLEM NOW IS THAT WITH THE NATIONALIZATION OF THE AIRCRAFT CO. OF ETHIOPIA, ALL AIRCRAFT, UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 ASMARA 00546 201121Z

SPARE PARTS, EQUIPMENT, ETC. HAD TO BE HANDED OVER TO ETHIOPIAN

AIRLINES, A STATE OWNED COMPANY. IT IS MR. BOATTINI'S CONTENTION THAT ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES ALSO INHERITED ALL OF THE NATIONALIZED COMPANY'S COMMITMENTS.

3. IN ANSWER TO THE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS RAISED IN PARA 3 REF B, THE FOLLOWING APPEARS TO BE THE CASE:

A) NON-PAYMENT APPEARS TO BE A DIRECT RESULT OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION AND THE NATIONALIZATION OF THE FIRM;

B) NOT KNOWN.

C) DO NOT BELIEVE MR. BOATTINI HAS ANY ACCESS AT PRESENT TO HIS FORMER COMPANY'S BANK ACCOUNTS, COMPANY BOOKS AND RECORDS. HE IS ONLY INTERMITTENTLY IN ASMARA BUT THE CONSULATE GENERAL WILL TRY TO DEVELOP MORE EXACT INFORMATION ON THIS POINT AS WELL AS ON HIS CURRENT FINANCES AND BUSINESS OPERATIONS, IF ANY.

4. FOR ADDIS: IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THE EMBASSY TAKE UP THE MATTER OF THE AIRCRAFT CO. OF ETHIOPIA'S FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS AT THE TIME OF NATIONALIZATION DIRECTLY WITH ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES IN ADDIS. SHERRY

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT, PROCUREMENT, POLICIES, LOANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ASMARA00546
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750215-0579
From: ASMARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750627/aaaaayta.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION XMB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 138448, 75 STATE 115232
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 FEB 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 FEB 2003 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <10 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FCIA/EXIMBANK NO. D-394 AIRCRAFT COMPANY OF ETHIOPIA, ASMARA
TAGS: EFIN, ET, XMB
To: STATE ADDIS ABABA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006